

**From:** Carl  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/6/01 12:58pm  
**Subject:** Law and Order vs. Laws and Orders

Dear Madam or Sir,

While your remedy in the Microsoft antitrust case may appear expeditious I believe it is exactly the opposite.

What will happen to our precious nation when Microsoft has more power than the US Government, if it isn't that way already? Clearly they already control much of the information economy, and DOJ has just patted them on the back and encouraged them to take the rest, which they are blatantly announcing that they will do (look closely at the .NET and PASSPORT strategies). When they have all the information and control its usage what will the government be able to do about it?

Does DOJ really expect competition to survive if Microsoft continues to openly flout the law? How vulnerable will all of us be when national security depends upon our networks being operational? Already our government has been rendered dependent on e-mail and fax because USPS has been slowed to a crawl by the anthrax packages. What happens if the e-mail goes?

I am aware that AG Ashcroft's personal beliefs probably do not include Darwinian theory, but the disease model is appropriate here. If a species has the same genes, and a germ comes along that destroys those genes, the species will die. The death of the chestnut trees in this country is a perfect example. They went from towering over the forest to dying off in a few years. When someone concocts a truly evil virus, Microsoft servers and software could do the same thing, leaving us what?

The situation with Microsoft IIS vulnerability is much like that of the airlines on Sept 10, 2001. No one has really tried... yet. Several sites have been compromised, millions have lost their personal and business information due to viruses, but no enormous and widespread catastrophic action has occurred so far. When it does, DOJ will be remembered for letting Microsoft off the leash.

And there are still more questions, like why Microsoft's price-fixing and racketeering activities (with Dell, Compaq, H-P, Gateway, etc.) have gone unpunished and unabated. Ever tried to buy a computer **without** Windows from one of those vendors? You can't, because they have a contract between them which shuts out all other choices. What's more, that contract is part of the evidence in the DOJ's antitrust suit. Why has nothing been done about it?

So in essence what the DOJ has done is squander a chance to improve our nation's security, punish some odious racketeers who really and openly want to take control of our country, and send a message that bilking our citizens will not be allowed in any form.

Instead the message is, as it has always been, " If you're gonna steal, steal big".

Sincerely,  
Carl Krall  
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